

# Victim Offender Dialogue

Louisiana Department of Public  
Safety and Corrections  
James M. Le Blanc, Secretary



Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) is a face-to-face meeting, in the presence of a trained mediator, between the victim of a crime and the person who committed that crime.

- This victim-initiated process, guided by the victim's wishes and intentions, is a carefully structured process, mediated by a team of two trained facilitators.
- Facilitators meet separately with the victim(s) and the offender on repeated occasions preparing both parties for the meeting while emphasizing physical and emotional safety as their overriding concerns.

## **Guidelines/Restrictions:**

- Only a victim/survivor, 18 years of age or older, can initiate dialogue.
- VOD preparation will not be allowed to overlap appeals, parole, pardon processes or civil suits and may be stopped at any time by the facilitators or either participant.
- Participation does not guarantee that a dialogue will occur

# Face to Face

## **Why would a victim want to meet with an offender?**

The justice system often leaves victims with burning questions that only the offender can answer, such as "What were my daughter's last words?" or "How did you pick me?"

- Some victims want to tell the offender exactly how their life has been affected by the crime.
- Some may want to know about the offender.
- What kind of person committed such an offense?
- What are the offender's future plans?



## **Why would an offender want to meet with the victim?**

- Offenders may want the opportunity to apologize and express remorse to the victim of their crime.
- Offenders may want an opportunity to make amends by answering questions the victim may have

For more information please contact:  
**Crime Victims Services Bureau**  
(225) 342-1056 or (888) 342-6110  
[www.doc.louisiana.gov](http://www.doc.louisiana.gov)